

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-6 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add new claims 8-13 as follows:

LISTING OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claims 1-6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Previously Withdrawn)

Claim 8. (New) A protecting cap structure for a needle of a syringe, the protecting cap including a protecting sleeve comprising:

- a) a cylindrical member with a hollow interior having:
- i) a compression portion on a first end of the cylindrical member; and
 - ii) two foldable portions connected to the cylindrical member, the compression portion and the two foldable portions being connected in series, the compression portion and the two foldable portions being moveable between an extended position and a folded position, such that in the extended position the needle is positioned within the hollow interior of the cylindrical member and in the folded position the needle protrudes from the first end of the compression portion; and
- b) a cover having a semi-circular cross section and pivotally connected to the cylindrical member, the cover selectively locking the compression portion and the two foldable portions in one of the extended position and the folded position.

Claim 9. (New) The protecting cap structure according to Claim 8, wherein the cylindrical member is integrally made with the cover.

Claim 10. (New) The protecting cap structure according to Claim 8, wherein the foldable portions are bent outwardly when in the folded position.

Claim 11. (New) The protecting cap structure according to Claim 8, further comprising a foldable extension member formed on a second end of the cylindrical member adjacent to the two foldable portions, the foldable extension member having a through hole and a protrusion, and being configured to removably lock the needle to the cylindrical member by inserting the protrusion into the through hole.

Claim 12. (New) The protecting cap structure according to Claim 8, further comprising a hooking strip extending from a second end of the cylindrical member; and an engaging hole in the cover, wherein the hooking strip engages the engaging hole when the cylindrical member is in the extended position.

Claim 13. (New) The protecting cap structure according to Claim 8, further comprising two engaging notches on opposing sides of the cover, such that in the folded position each of the two foldable portions is inserted into one of the two engaging notches.